

**JOINT RECOMMENDATION TO
THE WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
AND
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK
CONCERNING ELK MANAGEMENT WITHIN
GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK
FOR THE YEAR 2013**

The undersigned field representatives of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Grand Teton National Park respectfully submit for your joint consideration the following supporting information and a recommended elk management program for Grand Teton National Park for 2013. The proposed programs have the long-range objectives of reducing the need to harvest elk within Grand Teton National Park, continue progress toward restoring historic distributions and migration patterns, and encourage elk to use historic fall and winter range areas in the southern half of Grand Teton National Park. The proposed program would continue to manage for a winter Refuge herd of 5,000 elk.

Supporting Information

The harvest quotas established below are maximum harvest objectives associated with Grand Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge herd segments. These quotas are part of the overall harvest objectives established for the Jackson elk herd unit.

Management data indicate the portion of the Jackson Elk Herd wintering on lands within the National Elk Refuge number approximately 7,500 animals during the 2012 – 2013 winter. The estimated post hunt 2013 population will be approximately 11,500 elk. To reduce this herd segment towards the population objective, the harvest must exceed 1,000 elk. A harvest of the Grand Teton National Park, Area 78, and the National Elk Refuge herd segments is desired. The following harvest quotas focus on resident and migrating elk that winter on or adjacent to the National Elk Refuge. The proposed season structure should lead to restoration of traditional elk numbers and migration patterns in areas outside National Park boundaries and to reduce elk numbers toward the National Elk Refuge population objective of 5,000 elk.

Maximum Harvest Quotas

Areas 75, 79 (Grand Teton National Park, Summer Herd Segment)	300
Area 77 (National Elk Refuge, Grand Teton National Park, Area 78, and Area 80, Summer Herd Segment)	400
Areas 70, 71, 75, 77 & 79 (North Migratory Segment)	300
	<hr/> 1,000


Recommended 2013 Park Program

The following elk management program is recommended for Grand Teton National Park in 2013 to facilitate an overall coordinated interagency program for managing the Jackson Elk Herd. The management program will be open to persons holding a valid Grand Teton National Park Permit and certified as having successfully completed an approved Hunter Safety Course. Hunters are only allowed to harvest one elk during the 2013 Grand Teton National Park elk management program.

1. Issue 250 Area 75 Type 4 Limited Quota Licenses valid for antlerless elk for the period October 19 through November 17, 2013 in that portion of Area 75 designated as open. The area designated as the Snake River Bottom from Deadman's Bar access road to Ditch Creek west of US Highway 26, 89, 191 shall be closed.
2. Allow Area 75 Type 4 licenses to hunt in Area 75 for the period November 18 through December 8, 2013 in that portion of Area 75 designated as open. The area designated as Antelope Flats and the area designated as the Snake River Bottom from Deadman's Bar access road to Ditch Creek west of US Highway 26, 89, 191 shall be closed.
3. Issue 400 Area 75 Type 6 Limited Quota Licenses valid for cow or calf elk for the period October 19 through November 17, 2013 in that portion of Area 75 designated as open. The area designated as the Snake River Bottom from Deadman's Bar access road to Ditch Creek west of US Highway 26, 89, 191 shall be closed.
4. Allow Area 75 Type 6 licenses to hunt in Area 75 for the period November 18 through December 8, 2013 in that portion of Area 75 designated as open. The area designated as Antelope Flats and the area designated as the Snake River Bottom from Deadman's Bar access road to Ditch Creek west of US Highway 26, 89, 191 shall be closed.
5. Allow unused Area 75 Type 4 licenses to hunt in Area 79 for antlerless elk for the period of October 19 to November 3, 2013 in that portion of Area 79 designated as open.
6. Maintain hunting in Area 75 through December 8, 2013 and Area 79 through November 3, 2013 or prior to the maximum harvest quota being obtained from these hunt areas. Hunt Areas may close on two days notice if the overall quota is reached prior to the closing date.
7. Maintain the closure of Area 72 and monitor elk numbers and movement patterns in that herd segment.
8. Retain a provision for extending the season to obtain desired quotas.

9. Maintain posted boundaries in Area 75 and 79 for the purpose of facilitating enforcement efforts regarding the 1/2 mile hunting closure around buildings. A portion of Area 75 in the SW 1/4 of Section 22, T43N, R115W, S½ S½ of Sections 3 and 4, T42N, R115W, will be posted as closed.
10. The technical committee of the Jackson Hole Cooperative Elk Studies Group annually reviews all available data concerning the Jackson Elk Herd to better evaluate the reduction program within Grand Teton National Park.
11. When any news media contacts either the Wyoming Game and Fish Department or Grand Teton National Park concerning the elk reduction program, the agency contacted by the news media will immediately notify the other agency to establish a coordinated response.

Grand Teton National Park



Michael Nash, Chief Park Ranger
Grand Teton National Park

4.15.2013

Date

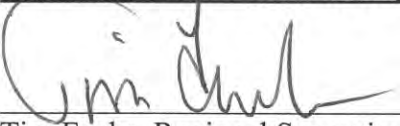


Steve Cain, Senior Wildlife Biologist
Senior Wildlife Biologist

4/11/13

Date

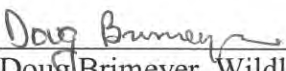
Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD)



Tim Fuchs, Regional Supervisor
WGFD, Jackson Region

4/16/2013

Date



Doug Brimeyer, Wildlife Biologist
WGFD, Jackson Region

4/16/2013

Date

**JOINT RECOMMENDATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
AND
THE WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ELK WITHIN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK
FOR THE YEAR 2013**

The National Park Service and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, as required by Section 6 of Public Law 81-787, and 16 United States Code Chapter 6, Section 673c, met in Casper, Wyoming on April 25 and 26, 2013 to review elk migration, hunter success, range and population data provided by biologists and administrators of the representative agencies, and to prepare joint recommendations concerning elk management activities within Grand Teton National Park for the 2013 year.

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Members:

Mike Healy, President
Richard Klouda, Vice President
Mark Anselmi
Aaron Clark
Keith Culver
T. Carrie Little

Charles Price

National Park Service Representatives:

Chief Park Ranger or representative of Grand Teton National Park

During the meeting, the following agreements were reached:

1. The reduction of elk in portions of Grand Teton National Park described below is necessary and desirable in 2013.
2. The reduction season in the Park shall be open October 19 through December 8, 2013.
3. The Joint Recommendation to the Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park by field representatives of the respective agencies will become an approved attachment to this joint recommendation for the purpose of providing a more complete understanding of the need for the 2013 Elk Reduction Program.
4. The portion of Grand Teton National Park which will be open to elk reduction by deputized Park Rangers is described as follows:


Area 75. Snake River. Beginning at the southern boundary of Grand Teton National Park and the Gros Ventre river at U. S. Highway 26-89-191; northerly along said highway to Ditch Creek; westerly along said creek to the Snake River proper; northerly along the eastern most bank of the main channel of the Snake River to the northern most channel of Spread Creek; easterly along said creek to U.S. Highway 26-89-191; southwesterly along said highway to U.S.F.S. Road 30310 at the Cunningham Cabin; southerly along said road to the Grand Teton National Park boundary; southerly along said boundary to the southernmost intersection with the Shadow Mountain-Kelly Road (U.S.F.S. Road 30340); southwesterly along said road to the junction of the Teton Science School road; northeasterly along said road one and one-quarter (1-1/4) miles to a marked boundary, easterly one (1) mile to the Grand Teton National Park boundary; southerly along the Grand Teton National Park boundary to the Gros Ventre-Kelly Road; southwesterly along said road to a posted boundary approximately ½ mile west of the Gros Ventre Campground; southerly along said boundary to the southern boundary of Grand Teton National Park at the Gros Ventre River; westerly along said boundary to U.S. Highway 26-89-191.

Area 79: Teton Park. Beginning where the U.S. Forest Service access road (U.S.F.S. Road 30310) near Cunningham Cabin intersects U.S. Highway 26-89-191; northerly along said highway to the junction of U.S. Highway 89-287 at Moran; northwesterly along said highway to the Grand Teton National Park boundary easterly and southerly along said boundary to the U.S. Forest Service access road (U.S. F.S. Road 30310); westerly along said road to U.S. Highway 26-89-191.

5. Holders of Area 75 Type 4, and Area 75 Type 6 Limited Quota Licenses will receive the permits and copies of the regulations from Grand Teton National Park by mail or authorized personnel.
6. An area one-fourth (1/4) mile wide either side of U. S. Highway 26, 89, 191, 287 shall be closed to all hunting. Provided further that no firearms shall be discharged within one-half (1/2) mile of any building.
7. The reduction period may be closed earlier than the established season if the desired quota of elk is reached or the reduction season may be extended beyond the established season in the event of late migration, inadequate reduction, or similar condition, upon mutual concurrence of the Grand Teton National Park Superintendent and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Director.
8. Six hundred fifty (650) persons licensed by the State of Wyoming will be referred to the Grand Teton National Park Superintendent and, if qualified, will be deputized as Park Rangers for participation in the reduction program. All permits will be issued by mail or authorized personnel.
9. Persons with GTNP permits may camp in Grand Teton National Park only at locations designated by the National Park Service.

10. The National Park Service will continue to allow selected road access to adjacent hunting areas on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.
11. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department will incorporate within its regulations any National Park Service requirement for the return of elk management data and the collection of biological specimens, as it relates to this program.
12. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the National Park Service will cooperate in a comprehensive law enforcement program to assure human safety, protection of natural resources, the rights of private landowners and the success of the elk management program.
13. When any news media contacts either the Wyoming Game and Fish Department or Grand Teton National Park concerning the elk reduction program, the agency contacted by the news media will immediately notify the other agency to establish a coordinated response.


RECOMMENDED:



Scott Talbott, Director
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

4/25/13

Date



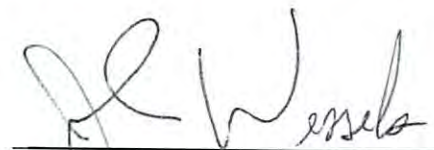
Mary Gibson Scott, Superintendent
Grand Teton National Park

5/16/13

Date

Matthew H. Mead
Governor of Wyoming

Date



John Wessells, Regional Director
Intermountain Region
National Park Service

5/17/13

Date